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Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
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O P 010337Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7308

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA
SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE: ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

1. PRIME MINISTER SENT HIS PROTOCOL SECRETARY, HAN SAN KUK, SO EMBASSY TODAY TO INFORM US OF FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE.

2. AFTERNOON 1 NOVEMBER FOREIGN MINISTER KIM WILL MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT COVERING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
A. PRIME MINISTER KIM WILL TRAVEL TO TOKYO ON 2 NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE WITH PRIME MINISTER TANAKA.
B. KIM TONG-UN IS NOW SUSPECTED OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE AND HAS BEEN DISMISSED FROM ROK GOVERNMENT SERVICE. HE IS BEING INVESTIGATED AND, IF FOUND GUILTY, WILL BE DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO THE APPROPRIATE KOREAN LAWS.
C. KIM TAE-CHUNG'S ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN WILL NOT BE A MATTER OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN VIEW OF THE STATEMENTS MADE BY KIM AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 26 OCTOBER.

3. IN TOKYO THE PRIME MINISTER WILL MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WITH TANAKA:
A. HE WILL APOLOGIZE FOR INVOLVEMENT OF KOREANS IN THE KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE.
B. THE INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE WILL CONTINUE AND THOSE FOUND GUILTY WILL BE PUNISHED.
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C. THE CASE IS TO BE HANDLED AS A CRIMINAL MATTER, NOT AS A POLITICAL ISSUE.

4. HAN SAID WITH THESE POINTS OUT OF THE WAY THE PRIME MINSTER

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HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SET A DATE FOR THE HOLDING OF THE JAPAN/ ROK MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE. PRIME MINISTER'S PARTY WILL REMAIN IN TOKYO OVERNIGHT AND WILL RETURN AT NOON ON 3 NOVEMBER.

5. HAN REITERATED POINT WHICH HE SAID HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUSLY TO THE AMBASSADOR, THAT IT IS ROKG HOPE KIM TAE-CHUNG'S ABILITY TO TRAVEL TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY WILL NOT BE PUSHED TOO QUICKLY OR GIVEN TOO MUCH PUBLICITY IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HAN UNDERLINED THE DELICACY OF CURRENT SITUATION REGARDING KIM TAE-CHUNG'S STATUS AND URGED NEED FOR SOME COOLING OFF PERIOD BEFORE ALLOWING KIM'S POSSIBLE DEPARTURE TO HARVARD.

6. COMMENT: PRIME MINISTER'S GOING TO JAPAN IS CLEAR INDICATION THAT SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN REACHED. PRIME MINISTER PREVIOUSLY TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WOULD NOT TRAVEL TO JAPAN UNLESS ALL ELEMENTS SATISFIED, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT BE PUT IN POSITION OF FAILING IN HIS MISSION.
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